

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

# Body Camera Community Engagement Report to Public Safety, Civil Rights & Emergency Management Committee

Minneapolis Police Department

Minneapolis Department of Neighborhood and  
Community Relations

# Background

- In 2015, MPD conducted a Body Camera pilot using standard operating procedure guidelines.
- The Police Conduct Oversight Commission (PCOC) conducted 3 community engagement forums in 2015 and reported recommendations based on these forums and other research, reports, guidelines and best practices.
- March 2016, the Body Camera Policy Draft was introduced to the community and PCOC.
- March 2016, 6 community listening sessions were held and community responded to the draft policy. The PCOC also responded at their March 8, 2016 meeting.

# Body Camera Community Listening Sessions

**6 community listening sessions - March & April 2016**

**Total Participation = 241**

- Minneapolis Urban League – 37 participants
  - Waite House – 75 participants
  - Phillips Community Center – 38 participants
  - Lao Assistance Center – 22 participants
  - All Nations Church – 51 participants
  - East Side Neighborhood Services – 18 participants
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- Targeted outreach to cultural and non-English speaking communities.
  - Interpreters and translated documents provided.

# Listening Session Themes

**Summary of consistent themes,  
concerns and recommendations from  
community listening sessions**

**Themes, concerns and  
recommendations are mostly  
consistent with recommendations  
from the PCOC**



# Listening Session Themes

## **Consent**

- **Cameras should be on at all times.**

Currently, no notification of:

- Officer is wearing a body camera
- If camera is recording
- There is no indication (light, etc.) that the camera is on or recording
- Don't have to respond to citizen request that camera is turned on or off

## **Report**


- **Officer should write incident report first without reviewing the video.**

Policy currently requires the video be reviewed first before the officer writes their incident report.

# Listening Session Themes

## **Discretion**

- **If a situation calls for discretion, the officer should ask individual(s) if they want the camera off - the consent should be recorded.**
- **Detail out why and when a video might be altered (blurring faces, segmenting video, etc.)**



The decision to turn on/off the camera is at the discretion of the officer. The current draft policy does list situations where discretion to activate or deactivate the camera may occur.

# Listening Session Themes

## **Accountability**

- **Regular audit of officer use of camera preferably by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party.**
- **Policy should note that disciplinary actions will result if inappropriate use of cameras is found.**
- **Policy needs to be revisited/audited.**
- **Policy should strike language “cameras can’t be used for surveillance of officers”.**

The current draft policy has no defined guidelines of audit or disciplinary actions.

# Listening Session Themes

## **Access**

- **Concern about public and private access to the videos in a timely manner**
- **Address the issue of privacy, such as *who* can access the video.**

The current draft policy is not clear on when and how the public can access videos.





# Other Community Concerns

- While no one tool can rebuild community trust in MPD; the body cameras would be a significant start in the right direction.
- The community wants acknowledgement that a transparent and pro-community Body Camera Policy is important for rebuilding community-police relations.
- Community was concerned that some of the key recommendations from the PCOC didn't make it into the draft policy.

# Other Community Concerns

- How will the input from the community be used to influence the current draft policy? Community is concerned their voices won't be heard.
- The current draft policy does not present an effort of rebuilding trust, holding officers accountable or supporting an environment of transparency and equity.
- The listening sessions were far too rushed; community had little to no time to digest and react to the draft policy in a mindful/thoughtful way.

# Other Community Concerns

- If the draft of the policy is not reworked; it will significantly exacerbate the issues of mistrust between MPD and community. It will also negate any progress made on community-police relations and potentially thwart any future efforts.
- Cameras should not be in use until an agreed upon policy is adopted.



# Next Steps

- MPD reviews summary of community listening sessions and revisits the Body Camera Policy draft.
- MPD will “report back” to community on any changes to the current policy draft.
- Educate community.
  - Roll out schedule of body cameras
  - Key points of the policy

# QUESTIONS?

